



How K-12 Schools Can Save Energy and Money

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Did you know...?

Using the \$1.5 billion schools waste on energy nationwide, school districts could purchase 300 million new textbooks!

Why should I measure energy performance in my K-12 school?

Each year, elementary and secondary schools across the United States spend over \$6 billion on energy - more than they spend on books and computers combined. Schools can save as much as 25-30 percent of this money by using energy efficient technologies and making sensible changes in operations and maintenance. Wasted energy dollars - \$1.5 billion nationwide - can be redirected to the schools' primary mission: education. Saving energy also cuts air pollution, which causes respiratory health problems and contributes to global warming.



The first step toward improving your schools' energy performance is understanding how they are performing today. By "benchmarking" the energy performance of your schools, the web-based ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager tool allows you to:

- rate your schools' energy performance on a scale of 1-100
 - compare their performance to each other and to other schools across the country
 - identify those schools with the greatest potential for savings (i.e. lower performing buildings)
- earn the ENERGY STAR® label for top performing schools (those scoring 75 or better)
- predict how much money, energy and pollution you will save by improving school energy performance
- track energy performance over time

What data will I need to enter for each school?

After entering some basic information, the benchmarking tool requires the following data on building physical attributes and operating characteristics for K-12 schools:

- gross square footage
- 12 months of energy consumption data for all fuel types
- weekly hours of occupancy
- number of students
- number of months in operation (per year)
- percent of the building that is cooled
- whether there are cooking facilities in the building

Most of this data should be accessible at your organization, but EPA and your local utility can help you to fill in any gaps. In all cases, missing data can be added at a later time.

How do I get started?

The first step is to set up a Portfolio Manager account. To do this, go to www.energystar.gov. Click on "Benchmark your building's energy performance" at the top. Click the "Login" button on the bottom of the page. Then there are two options:

Option 1

1. Click on the button that says "New User" and follow the instructions. You will be asked to enter your name, address, title, etc., and also to create a user name and password.
2. Once your account is set up, you will be ready to enter data for your buildings. You can set up your account and explore the benchmarking tool even if you are not ready to begin entering data.

Option 2

1. Click on the "Import" button on the bottom.

The ENERGY STAR® rating system

measures schools on
a 1-100 scale. Each
school that scores 75 or
better can apply for the
ENERGY STAR® label—a
bronze plaque to
display on the school.

Visit www.energystar.gov
for more information.
Learn more about
benchmarking by
participating in one
of our ENERGY STAR®
Internet Presentations.
Click on “schools” at the
left and then on “Internet
Presentations” on the
right under “What’s new”.

The Bottom Line: Why wait?

With ENERGY STAR® it's
easy to start improving
your school's energy
performance today.

If you have questions,
please call us at the
contacts listed on
the front , or at
1-888-STAR-YES.

2. Right click your industry type and “Save Link As.”
3. Fill out a spreadsheet template which is in Microsoft Excel format.
4. E-mail the completed spreadsheet template to energystarbuildings@epa.gov.
ENERGY STAR® will set up your account for you and send you a reply when your submitted buildings are benchmarked.

ENERGY STAR® Buildings Five-Stage Approach

ENERGY STAR® has developed proven ways to maximize your school's efficiency while decreasing operating costs and improving comfort at the same time. Through experience, ENERGY STAR® partners have seen that how you perform upgrades is as important as which upgrades you implement. ENERGY STAR®'s five stage sequence is the most logical and effective process of upgrading your building based on the interaction of building systems.

Stage 1. Building tune-up

Stage 2. Green Lights

Stage 3. Other Load Reductions (i.e., office equipment)

Stage 4. Fan System Upgrades

Stage 5. Heating and Cooling System Upgrades